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Filing Date: July 31, 2001
Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM TO FACILITATE PRE-ORDERING VIA AN ELECTRONIC COMMERCE FACILITY, AND
    AUTOMATICALLY TO FACILITATE SATISFYING OF A PRE-ORDER UPON LISTING OF AN APPROPRIATE OFFER VIA THE
    ELECTRONIC COMMERCE FACILITY

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method to facilitate a transaction via a network-based transaction facility, the method including:

recording a pre-order relating to an item in a processor-implemented database of the transaction facility, the pre-order specifying a plurality of pre-order attributes including a minimum pre-order product condition and minimum seller rating;

receiving an offer to sell the item at the transaction facility, the offer specifying a plurality of offer attributes including an offer product condition and a seller rating;

automatically performing with processor-implemented matching logic a matching operation to detect a correspondence between the pre-order and the offer, the matching operation utilizing the plurality of pre-order attributes and the plurality of the offer attributes to detect the correspondence; and

responsive to the processor-implemented matching logic detecting a correspondence between the pre-order and the offer, automatically performing a transaction when the plurality of pre-order attributes are satisfied by the plurality of the offer attributes, wherein, if a batch of pre-orders are detected matching the offer, the batch of pre-orders are set in a reserve state, and wherein a second transaction is performed when one of the batch of pre-orders is confirmed.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the minimum pre-order product condition includes an item descriptor, an item price and a pre-order expiration specification.

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim1 wherein the seller rating is established based on a trading history of a seller from which the offer originates.

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4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the seller rating is determined by input received from other users of the transaction facility.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the item description comprises any one of a UPC code and an ISBN code.

6.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the offer product condition includes an item descriptor, an item price and a seller identifier.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the matching operation utilizes multiple pre-order attributes of the plurality of pre-order attributes and multiple offer attributes of the plurality of offer attributes to detect the correspondence.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the correspondence includes any one of a group of degrees of correspondence, including an exact correspondence, a correspondence below a maximum threshold, a correspondence above a minimum threshold and a correspondence within a range.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the pre-order attributes specifies a criterion, and wherein the detecting of the correspondence includes determining whether the criterion is met or exceeded.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating the pre-order to a seller from which the offer to sell was received.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the communication of the pre-order to the seller occurs prior to a publication of the offer to sell by the transaction facility.

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12.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the communication of the pre-order includes communicating to the seller a user-selectable option to instantly satisfy the pre-order with the offer and thereby to establish the transaction.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the communication of the pre-order includes communicating at least a subset of the plurality of pre-order attributes to the seller.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the communicating on the pre-order includes causing a display of a user interface communicating the pre-order to the seller.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the user interface comprises a markup-language document.

16.   (Original) The method of claim 14 including transmitting the user interface via a network to a device accessible by the seller.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 10 including communicating comparative price information to the seller in conjunction with the pre-order.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the comparative price information includes, for the item, any one of a group of information items including a recommended price for a second item, a last sold price for an item substantially similar to the second item, an average list price for an item substantially similar to the second item, a current highest price for an item substantially similar to the second item, a current low price for an item substantially similar to the current item and a minimum listing price.

19.   (Canceled)

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20.   (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the offer to sell is received as part of a batch of offers from the seller to sell a plurality of items.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the item includes any one of a group of items including goods and services.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein multiple instances of the item are in existence, and the pre-order relates to any one of the multiple instances of the item that satisfies the pre-order attributes.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the offer to sell relates to a specific instance of the multiple instances of the item.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein a single instance of the item is in existence, and both the pre-order and the offer relate to the single instance of the item.

25-31. (Canceled)

32.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the at least one pre-order attribute includes any one of a group of attributes including an item descriptor, an item price, an item condition, a seller rating and a pre-order expiration specification.

33.   (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the seller rating is established based on a trading history of a seller from which the offer originators.

34.   (Original) The system of claim 33 wherein the seller rating is determined by input received from other users of the transaction facility.

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35.   (Original) The system of claim 32 wherein the item description comprises any one of a
UPC code and an ISBN code.

36.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the at least one offer attribute
includes any one of a group of attributes including an item descriptor, an item price, an item
condition and a seller identifier.

37.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the matching operation utilizes
multiple pre-order attributes of the plurality of pre-order attributes and multiple offer attributes
of the plurality of offer attributes to detect the correspondence.

38.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the correspondence includes any
one of a group of degrees of correspondence, including an exact correspondence, a
correspondence below a maximum threshold, a correspondence above a minimum threshold and
a correspondence within a range.

39.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein at least one of the pre-order
attributes specifies a criterion, and wherein the detecting of the correspondence includes
determining whether the criterion is met or exceeded.

40.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the transaction facilitating
operation includes communicating the pre-order to a seller from which the offer to sell was
received.

41.   (Original) The system of claim 40 wherein the communication of the pre-order to the
seller occurs prior to a publication of the offer to sell by the transaction facility.

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42.   (Original) The system of claim 40 wherein the communication of the pre-order includes communicating to the seller a user-selectable option to instantly satisfy the pre-order with the offer and thereby to establish the transaction.

43.   (Original) The system of claim 40 wherein the communication of the pre-order includes communicating at least a subset of the plurality of pre-order attributes to the seller.

44.   (Original) The system of claim 40 wherein the communicating on the pre-order includes causing a display of a user interface communicating the pre-order to the seller.

45.   (Original) The system of claim 44 wherein the user interface comprises a markup-language document.

46.   (Original) The system of claim 44 wherein the communicating of the pre-order includes transmitting the user interface via a network to a device accessible by the seller.

47.   (Original) The system of claim 40 including communicating comparative price information to the seller in conjunction with the pre-order.

48.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47 wherein the comparative price information includes, for the item, any one of a group of information items including a recommended price for a second item, a last sold price for an item substantially similar to the second item, an average list price for an item substantially similar to the second item, a current highest price for an item substantially similar to the second item, a current low price for an item substantially similar to the current item and a minimum listing price.

49.   (Canceled)

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50.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the offer to sell is received as part of a batch of offers from the seller to sell a plurality of items.

51.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the item includes any one of a group of items including goods and services.

52.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein multiple instances of the item are in existence, and the pre-order relates to any one of the multiple instances of the item that satisfies the pre-order attributes.

53.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 61 wherein the offer to sell relates to a specific instance of the multiple instances of the item.

54.   (Previously Presented) The claim of claim 61 wherein a single instance of the item is in existence, and both the pre-order and the offer relate to the single instance of the item.

55-60. (Canceled)

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61.   (Currently Amended) A commerce system to facilitate a transaction, the system including:

first means for recording a pre-order relating to an item at the transaction facility, the pre-order specifying a plurality of pre-order attributes including a minimum pre-order product condition and minimum seller rating; and

second means for automatically performing a matching operation to detect a correspondence between the pre-order and an offer received at the system, the offer specifying a plurality of offer attributes including an offer product condition and a seller rating, the matching operation utilizing the plurality of pre-order attributes and the plurality of the offer attributes to detect the correspondence;

the second means further, responsive to a detection of the correspondence by the matching operation, for automatically performing a transaction when the plurality of pre-order attributes are satisfied by the plurality of the offer attributes,

wherein, if a batch of pre-orders are detected matching the offer, the batch of pre-orders are set in a reserve state, and wherein a second transaction is performed when one of the batch of pre-orders is confirmed.

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62.   (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium storing a sequence of instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to facilitate a transaction via a network-based transaction facility, the method including:

recording a pre-order relating to an item at the transaction facility, the pre-order specifying a plurality of pre-order attributes including a minimum pre-order product condition and minimum seller rating;

receiving an offer to sell the item at the transaction facility, the offer specifying a plurality of offer attributes including an offer product condition and a seller rating;

automatically performing a matching operation to detect a correspondence between the pre-order and the offer, the matching operation utilizing at least one pre-order attribute of the plurality of pre-order attributes and at least one offer attribute of the offer attributes to detect the correspondence;

responsive to a detection of the correspondence by the matching operation, automatically performing a transaction when the plurality of pre-order attributes are satisfied by the plurality of the offer attributes,

wherein, if a batch of pre-orders are detected matching the offer, the batch of pre-orders are set in a reserve state, and wherein a second transaction is performed when one of the batch of pre-orders is confirmed.